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29 January 1975

SUBJECT: Behavioral Drugs

1. CIA has had a recurring interest in behavioral drugs. This is a matter of general interest in the field of intelligence, both as a defensive measure against drugs that might be administered to Americans, to influence their behavior, or that might be administered under undetermined conditions to influence the behavior of persons hostile to the United States. The earliest record of an interest in this stems from the WWII period when there were indications of Soviet interest in this sort of thing, the most famous of which was the bizarre confessions of Cardinal Mindszenty in February 1949.

2. Between 1949 and 1956 undertook the analysis of foreign work on certain unconventional warfare and techniques with the general objective of developing protection for information of vital significance to the security of the U.S. Initial phases included the review of drug-related work at [redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted] There also was an extensive review of foreign literature particularly work on the Soviet Bloc. Project BLUEBIRD was instituted with the objective of (a) discovering means of conditioning personnel to prevent unauthorized extraction of information of them by known means, (b) the possibility of obtaining control of an individual by application of special interrogation techniques, (c) memory enhancement and (d) defensive means for preventing hostile control of Agency personnel. In August 1951 the Project name was changed to ARTICHOKE. In 1952 the Project was transferred ~~from the Office of Scientific Intelligence~~ to the predecessor to the present Office of Security, with OSI retaining responsibility for evaluation of foreign intelligence aspects of the matter.

Among materials considered was Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD). A proposal was made in late 1953 to experiment with LSD using volunteer Agency personnel, but OSI records indicate that no such experiments were undertaken.

3. The predecessor organization of the Office of Technical Service maintained liaison with personnel at Camp Detrick, whereby they met once or twice a year to discuss questions of behavioral drugs. At one such meeting at Deep Creek Lake in Maryland, [redacted] November [redacted] 1953, with seven representatives from Camp Detrick and three from CIA, eight of those present were administered

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LSD, which had been placed in a bottle of cointreau. Personnel were not advised of this until 20 minutes after they had partaken of the substance. Of the two that did not take it one did not drink alcoholic beverages and the other refrained because of a heart condition. One of the members of the group, a civilian employee of the Department of Army by the name of Frank R. Olson, had serious after-effects. He was sent at CIA expense to New York in company of a CIA employee where he received treatment from a psychiatrist between 24 November and the time that he threw himself through a window in his room on the tenth floor of the Statler Hotel at 2:30 A/M. on 28 November. CIA, through a document of 9 December 1953 signed by its General Counsel, certified that the death of Dr. Olson resulted from "circumstances arising out of an experiment undertaken in the course of his official duties for the United States Government," in the official position established of the Agency for the purpose of the surveys of Dr. Olson receiving compensation from the BEC. Official reprimands were issued by the DCI to two CIA employees involved in the unwitting administering of this drug.

5. On 20 October 1952 a formal policy was established by the DD/P for the use of biochemicals in clandestine operations. This was brought under a special funding procedure established on 3 April 1953. The program involved various means of possibly controlling

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of human behavior, of which drugs were only one aspect, others being radiation, electro-shock, psychology, psychiatry, sociology, anthropology, harrassments, substances and paramilitary devices and materials. Under the code name, MKULTRA/MKDELTA the project dealt with pharmaceutic houses, specialists, hospitals, and federal institutions through which a search was conducted for new materials. Among these materials were psylocbin from Mexican mushrooms, a fungus occurring in certain crops, and LSD. After laboratory testing a second phase involved testing on voluntary participants. The final phase involved application to unwitting subjects, in uncontrolled situations, commencing in 1955 under an informal arrangement with individuals in the Bureau of Narcotics. Such tests were conducted from time to time until 1963 when the Inspector General discovered the activity and raised questions about it. Project records do not now exist, but it is understood that unwitting testing was not renewed and the remainder of the program was gradually phases out in the late 1960's. In a number of instances the test subject was ill for hours or days following the application, with their being hospitalized in at least one case.

6. Project OFTEN was conducted by [redacted] from 19— to January in which attention was given to possibly defensive drugs that could be used to protect an individual against hostile applications of drugs. The program

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was also interested in testing drugs that might induce aberrant behavior on the part of persons to whom the materials were administered. This progressed through laboratory testing, finally involving testing on some 20 volunteers in the laboratories at Edgewood Arsenal. This program was terminated in _____.